

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000
PUBLIC LAW 106-393
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM
USDA FOREST SERVICE

Name of Resource Advisory Committee: Fresno
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):
Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2008

| | |
|--|--|
| 2. Project Name: Wilderness Trail Crew | 3a. State: CA 3b. County(s): Fresno |
| 4. Project Submitted By: R.Ekman | 5. Date: February 18, 2009 |
| 6. Contact Phone Number: (559) 855-5355 X3341 | 7. Contact E-mail: rekman@fs.fed.us |

| | |
|--|--|
| 8. Project Location: Wilderness Areas on the Sierra NF (Ansel Adams, John Muir, Dinkey Lakes and Kaiser Wildernesses. | |
| a. National Forest(s): Sierra National Forest | b. Forest Service District: High Sierra RD |
| c. Location (Township-Range-Section) | |

| |
|--|
| 9. Project Goals and Objectives: Maintain and improve the Wilderness trails on the High Sierra RD. Open trails for use as early in the season as possible. Reconstruct sections of severely damaged trails. Improve and restore Wilderness watersheds through trail maintenance. Work with volunteer groups to ensure maximum productivity of volunteer trail crews. Interact with public in Wilderness for educational and informative purposes. |
|--|

| |
|---|
| 10. Project Description: a. Brief: (<i>in one sentence</i>) Trail crew for the maintenance, clearing, improvement and reconstruction of Wilderness trail on the High Sierra RD, and for the improvement and restoration of watersheds in Wilderness on the High Sierra RD. b. Detailed: The Wilderness areas of the High Sierra Ranger District are some of the premier Wilderness areas in the <i>nation</i> . Over 600 miles of trails provide the public with access to these spectacular Wilderness areas. In order to adequately maintain such an extensive trail system, two trail crews of at least seven members would be required each summer for the heavy maintenance and reconstruction of degraded trails. In 2006, the High Sierra RD will have no permanent trail crew member due to lack of appropriated funding. This project will provide funding to employ 2 temporary trail crew members. These members will provide the public with three major functions. Early season workload will focus on clearing high use trails of trees and other major obstructions as soon as possible. The main part of the season will focus on the heavy maintenance and reconstruction of severely degraded high-use trails (for example PCT, Mono Creek Trail, Piute Canyon Trail). The season wrap-up workload will include the cleaning, maintenance and reconstruction of water bars and drain dips in order to "winterize" the trails, or prevent spring run-off from eroding trails even further. Each of these three portions of the field season will contribute to the improvement and restoration of watersheds in Fresno County's Wilderness. Throughout each part of the season, the trail crew duties will also include leading volunteer groups to assist in the trail maintenance and reconstruction efforts. |
|---|

| |
|--|
| 11. Types of Lands Involved? |
| State/Private/Other lands involved? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes X No |
| Land Status: |
| If Yes, specify: |

| |
|---|
| 12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1) |
| X <input type="checkbox"/> Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure. |
| X <input type="checkbox"/> Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems. |
| X <input type="checkbox"/> Restores and improves land health. |
| X <input type="checkbox"/> Restores water quality |

| | |
|--|--|
| 13. Project Type | |
| a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance | X <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration | X <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement | X <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement |
| X <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Control of Noxious Weeds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Fuels Management/Fire Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Implement CWPP Project | X <input type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify): Visitor contact and volunteer support |
| b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): | |

| |
|---|
| 14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish |
| Miles of road maintained: |
| Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated: |
| Number of structures maintained/improved: |
| Acres of soil productivity improved: |
| Miles of stream/river restored/improved: Trail maintenance will provide collateral stream and river restoration as a result of reduced sediment loading from eroding trails. |
| Miles of fish habitat restored/improved: Trail maintenance will provide collateral habitat restoration as a result of reduced sediment loading into streams and rivers from eroding trails. |
| Acres of native species reestablished: |

| |
|---|
| Miles of trail maintained: Approximately 100 miles of level 3 and level 2 trail cleared and maintained, several miles of severely degraded trail reconstructed. |
| Miles of trial obliterated: Any user trails that are causing resource damage. |
| Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction): |
| Acres of rangeland improved: |
| Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: |
| Acres of noxious weeds controlled: |
| Timber volume generated: |
| Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: 2 Temporary positions = 1 FTE |
| People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): 1000 (~3% of Wilderness visitors) |
| Direct economic activity benefit: |
| Other: |

| | |
|--|---|
| 15. Estimated Project Start Date: 5/25/09 | 16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 9/30/09 |
|--|---|

17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities. Trail crew members will work closely and collaboratively with volunteer groups such as the Backcountry Horsemen, High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew and others to support volunteer efforts in our Wilderness areas. The trail crew members will lead such volunteer crews in basic trail maintenance projects as well as reconstruction of severely degraded high-use trails. The trail crew members will also educate volunteer crews on proper maintenance, clearing and trail reconstruction techniques.

18. Identify benefits to communities. Fresno County residents will see continuing and improved maintenance of Wilderness trails, as well as reconstruction of severely degraded high-use trails such as the PCT, Mono Creek Trail or Bench Valley Trail. The maintenance and upkeep of such trails will provide Fresno Country residents with high-quality trails, preserved wilderness and protected resources (soil, water, habitat). The staff employed by this project will be hired from Fresno County, benefiting the county's residents and economy.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources? This project will enhance the quality of Wilderness trails in Fresno County. The Wilderness resource in Fresno County is second-to-none in the state of California. Federal appropriated dollars are not sufficient for the Forest Service to maintain the extensive network of trails within these Wilderness areas. The maintenance of these trails is essential to the preservation of Fresno County's Wilderness resource, and to providing the public with an adequate transportation network within Wilderness for both stock and hikers. This project will provide the Forest Service with a trail crew that will be closer to the adequate staff necessary to provide the residents of Fresno Country with a trail network that will allow adequate access and protect the Wilderness resource and Wilderness watersheds of Fresno County for future generations.

| | |
|---|---|
| 20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contract | X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce |

| | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce | X <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant | <input type="checkbox"/> Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Americorps | <input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): |

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials? ☐ Yes X☐ No

| |
|---|
| 22. Anticipated Project Costs |
| a. Title II Funds Requested: \$34,000 |
| b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding: The High Sierra RD will provide funding for supervision of the trail crew and monitoring trail crew accomplishments. We will leverage funds provided through this project with volunteer trail crews (Backcountry Horsemen, Sierra Club, Wilderness Volunteers, PCTA, etc.). The High Sierra RD will also provide funding for any work-related supplies needed by the rangers, including PPE (personal protective equipment) and tools.

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment) See attached sheets (pages 5 and 6).

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.
- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

- ☐ Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
- X☐ Other, please explain: Unused funds, which are not expended, will be held over to FY2010 to fund temporary trail crew members.

Project Recommended By:

/s/ Kirby Molen
Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ Edward C. Cole
Forest Supervisor

National Forest

24. Monitoring Plan:

a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.

This project will be monitored by three primary methods:

1. Trail crew members carry cards on which they record the activities of each day. The information collected on these cards includes:
 - Visitor contacts
 - Number of individuals
 - Number of parties
 - Locations of contacts made
 - Wilderness Permit – Y or N
 - Entry Date
 - Entry location
 - Party size
 - Permit party name
 - Number of stock
 - Waterbars cleaned
 - Waterbars reconstructed
 - Rock removed from trail (in linear feet and hours spent)
 - Trees removed from trail (number of trees and hours spent)
 - Brushing of trail (in linear feet and hours spent)
 - Trail tread repair (in linear feet and hours spent)
 - Signs installation/repair (number of signs and hours spent)
 - Litter removal (lbs)
 - Fire rings eradicated (number of rings)
 - Campsites inventoried
 - Miles hiked (if hiking)
 - Miles ridden (if on horse)
 - Citations issued
 - Written warnings issued
 - Verbal warnings issued
2. The wilderness manager as well as the three permanent wilderness rangers will frequently accompany the temporary trail crew members to assist in their development and provide a model from which the temporary employees can learn.
3. The public provides feed back on trail crew members, both positive and negative, to VIS centers. When feedback is received, it is an excellent tool we can use to monitor how effective the trail crew members are in interacting with the public as well as providing good service to the public.

b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

Monitoring of wilderness rangers will be conducted primarily by the wilderness manager and three permanent wilderness rangers, but also by the public through feedback to VIS staff.

c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

See page 6 below.

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

| Item | Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution | Column B Requested Title II Contribution | Column C Other Contributions | Column D Total Available Funds |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| a. Field Work & Site Surveys | | | | |
| b. NEPA/CEQA | | | | |
| c. ESA Consultation | | | | |
| d. Permit Acquisition | | | | |
| e. Project Design & Engineering | | | | |
| f. Contract/Grant Preparation | | | | |
| g. Contract/Grant Administration | | | | |
| h. Contract/Grant Cost | | | | |
| i. Salaries | \$7,000.00 | \$27,504.00 | | |
| j. Materials & Supplies | \$800.00 | \$500.00 | | |
| k. Monitoring | | | | |
| l. Other (per diem, vehicles, supplies) | \$2,000.00 | \$5,996.00 | | |
| m. Project Sub-Total | \$9,800.00 | \$34,000.00 | | |
| n. Indirect Costs | \$6,239.20 | \$0.00 | | |
| o. Total Cost Estimate | \$16,039.20 | \$34,000.00 | | |

NOTES:

- a. Pre-NEPA Costs
- g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.
- i. Cost of implementing project
- l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.
- n. Contracting/Grant Officer costs, if needed, are included as part of Indirect Costs.